

LARISSA. THE MISTRESS OF LARGE MUSIC.

An annotated introduction to Classical Music
for listeners under 30.

conceived and composed by Charles Roland Berry



Larissa

**MISTRESS
OF
LARGE
MUSIC**

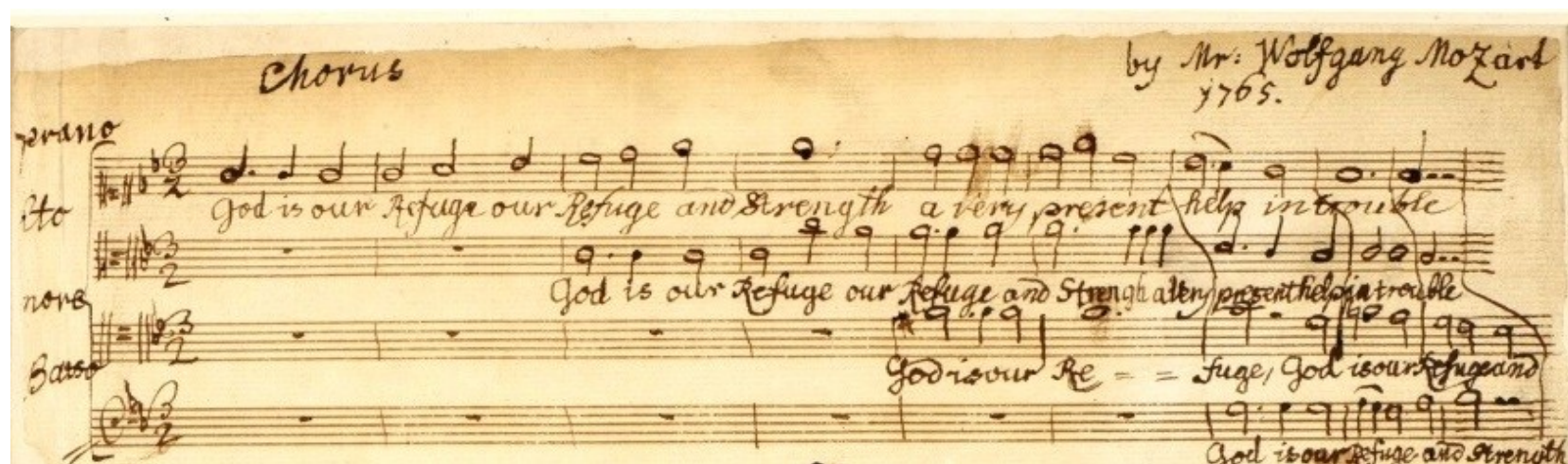
LARISSA'S INTRODUCTION

Hello music lovers. I'm Larissa. Your Mistress of Large Music. Large music is classical music for full symphony orchestra. Most of us listen *small*, to country bands, rock bands, or rappers. We only hear large music in movie soundtracks, or way, way in the background, in elevators or Barnes and Noble Bookstores. In elevators and bookstores, the music is not music. It is wallpaper, hardly noticed at all. And that is why I sit here. I sit here to tell you Classical music, and classical *orchestral* music in particular, is probably the most interesting and diverse music you are ever likely to hear. Many people have not paid attention to Classical music, through no fault of their own. They have simply not thought much about it.

Classical music is rarely featured on Paramount Plus or Amazon Prime or Netflix. We are more likely to see zombies.

My video series will give you some of the best orchestral works from 1720 to 2022. I include familiar names, like Mozart and Beethoven, and less well-known composers like, Janacek, Bela Bartok, Paul Creston, Cyril Scott and Reveultas.

One of the most important things to remember is this: Play the music *LOUD*. Act like you are sitting in a concert hall with 66 to 80 musicians on stage. You would never ask them all to be as quiet as possible. You want to be able to hear every note of the bassoon, and all the fast notes on the violas and cellos. I know you listen to rock loud, so listen to Classical *LOUD*. This is not wall-paper. This is the main event. Loud, like a hockey game.



Episode One

Hector Berlioz

Johann Sebastian Bach

Antonin Dvorak

Charles Roland Berry



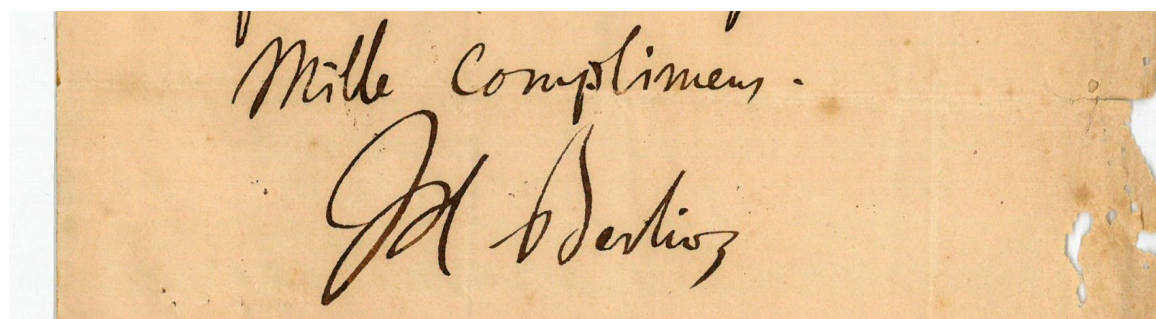
EPISODE ONE

Host: Larissa Darmstadt

BERLIOZ Our first work is by the French composer, Hector Berlioz. His SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE. Berlioz was born in 1803 and died in Paris in 1869. In 1825 he saw a production of Shakespeare, and fell madly, passionately, insanely in love with the lead actress, Harriet Simpson. Who, of course rejected him and made him miserable, and finally married Berlioz, to make him miserable for several years more years until their divorce. The SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE. is a fantasy nightmare, which Berlioz called Episodes in the Life of an Artist, being mostly an autobiography of his nightmare relationship with Miss Simpson. The work has five movements: Reveries and Passions, The Ball, Scene in the Fields, March to the Scaffold, and Witches Sabbath.

The composer wrote detailed stories to go with each individual nightmare.

Over two hundred years later, the music holds up much better than the romance nightmare of Harriet Simpson. The music is exquisite and powerful, creating a vast drama within the orchestra. In this drama no words are needed. And no story is needed. The drama unfolds and moves forward without need for a written story, nor motion pictures from Hollywood. SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE. exists as its own unique work of musical art. Berlioz went on to compose many more famous works, and was the rockstar of his place and time. Russian princesses and wives of nobility had affairs with him. He was in demand across Europe as a conductor between 1843 and 1855, visiting London on four different tours. Here is the 2nd movement of SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE...





BERLIOZ

RCA VICTOR
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A "New Orthophonic" High Fidelity Recording

SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

CHARLES MUNCH • BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



J.S. BACH

Johann Sebastian Bach's music might have been lost in the deep dumpster of music history, without the interest of composer Felix Mendelssohn in the 1800s. Bach lived in Germany all his life, supporting his many children as choirmaster, organist and composer in various churches, from 1700 to 1750. The great composer was almost entirely forgotten until the revival of interest in his works by Felix Mendelssohn. Mendelssohn performed Bach choral works in beginning in 1849. Bach was not famous in his own time, certainly not an international superstar like George Frederick Handel. Mendelssohn's performance of the *St. Matthew Passion*, did much to popularize Bach.

The BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS are a collection of six works for orchestra, presented to the Margrave of Brandenburg in 1721, though most were probably composed earlier. Bach wrote this letter to His Royal Highness: "As I had the good fortune a few years ago to be heard by Your Royal Highness, at Your Highness's commands, and as I noticed then that Your Highness took some pleasure in the little talents which Heaven has given me for Music, and as in taking Leave of Your Royal Highness, Your Highness deigned to honor me

with the command to send Your Highness some pieces of my Composition: I have in accordance with Your Highness's most gracious orders taken the liberty of rendering my most humble duty to Your Royal Highness with the present Concertos..."

~~Blah-blah-blah. Clearly the royalty of the time needed to have their asses kissed, over and over. Even by great composers.

We notice, 300 years later *nobody at all* cares about the Margrave of Brandenburg. While millions of people care about the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. We will hear the opening movement of BRANDENBURG CONCERTO NO. 4...





ANTONIN DVORAK was born in Bohemia in 1841, and died in Prague in 1904. Between 1892 and 1895 Dvorak was director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York City. He spent the summer of 1893 in Spillville, Iowa, which he enjoyed much more than New York City. His most popular work in the U.S. is his "New World" Symphony no. 9. We will hear the 1st Movt. of his VIOLIN CONCERTO in A minor, which has many grand, soaring Czech melodies and rhythmic drive for which Dvorak is famous...





CHARLES ROLAND BERRY is known for his short pieces in major motion pictures. He is an Armenian composer born in Boston. His films include Mark Wahlburg's *Infinite* and *The Gambler*, and Denzel Washington's *Equalizer 2*, as well as children's movies, *Back to the Outback*, and *How to Train Your Dragon*. His close relationship with the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine has produced several of his major compositions: His *Symphony no. 4* and *no.5*, the *Ondes Martenot Concerto*, and his 60-min. work for string orchestra, the *Three Fantasies*. Here is Movement no. 5 from *SYMPHONY NO.4*, performed by the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine, recorded in 2020. Theodore Kuchar, conducting.

The image displays a musical score for Movement no. 5 of Symphony No. 4 by Charles Roland Berry. The score is written for a string orchestra and includes percussion. The instruments listed on the left are Percussion (Perc.), Timpani (Timp.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Violin III (Vln. III), Violin IV (Vln. IV), and Viola I (Vla. I). The percussion part features a snare drum (Perc.) and a timpani (Timp.). The string parts are for Violin I, Violin II, Violin III, Violin IV, and Viola I. The score is in 2/4 time and begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The percussion part starts with a snare drum roll, followed by a timpani roll. The string parts enter with a pizzicato (pizz.) section, marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.



Thank you for coming along for the ride, and hearing a few wonderful pieces of music. I'm Larissa. Your Mistress of Large Music. You can count on me to find the most stunning pieces of orchestral music ever written and present them to you... in fun ways, And I want to remind you to CRANK IT UP! Classical music is only worthwhile when it is listened to LOUD.... at the same level of volume you would hear in a live concert hall.

Next week's program includes THE PLANETS by British composer, Gustav Holst, a romantic violin concerto from Johannes Brahms, the famous and powerful Symphony no. 2 of Jean Sibelius, and a very special treat-- the broadcast premiere of the Olympic Mountains Overture by Charles Roland Berry. This 11-minute work for full orchestra describes the soaring beauty and swirling wind of the Olympic Mountains in Washington State.



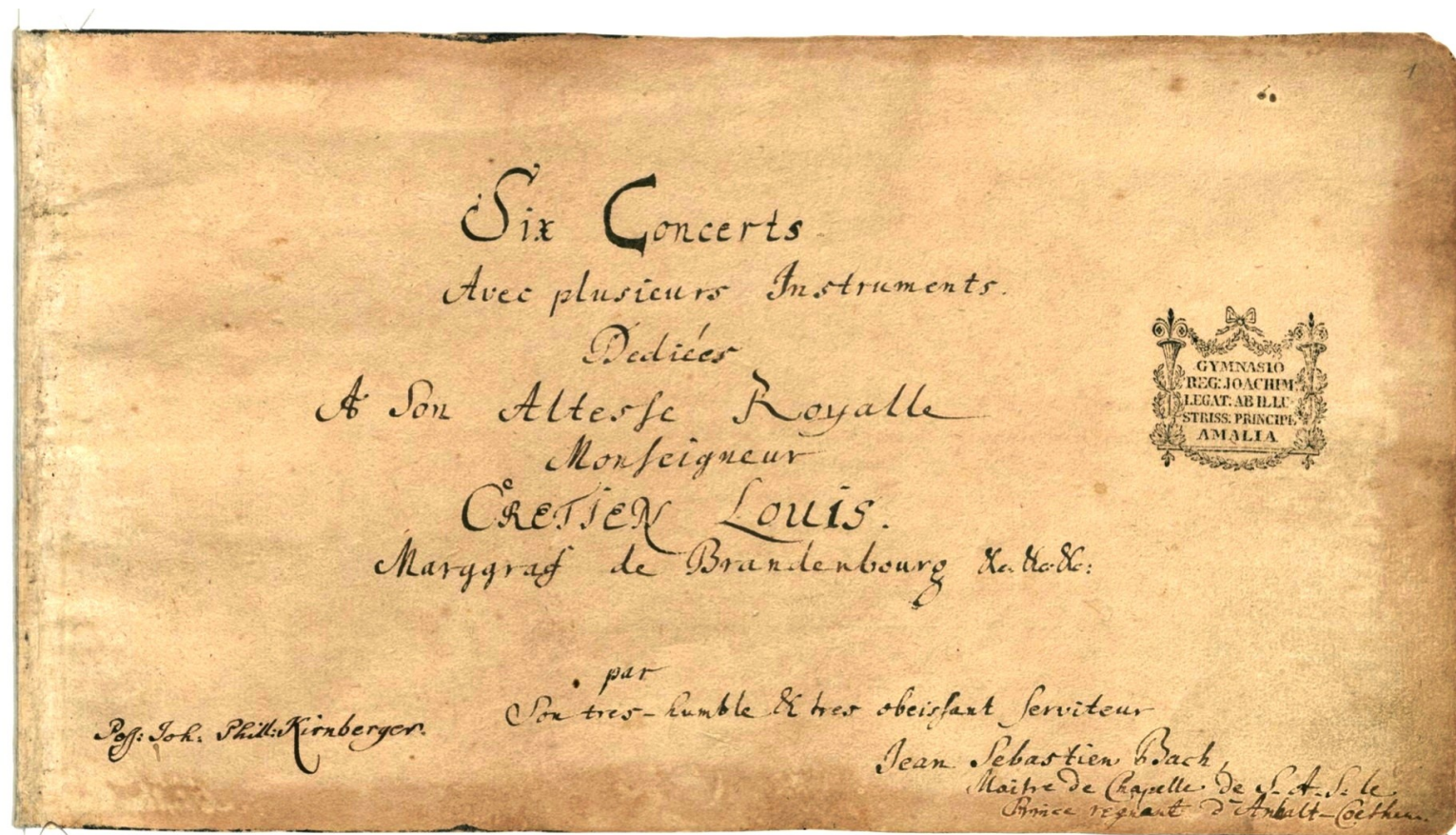
Our series of programs is intended to introduce new listeners to Classical music, giving examples from the great masters of the past 300 years, as well as a few living composers who carry on the tradition of composing music for full symphony orchestra. I feel it is important to say, Classical concert music is distinctly different from film music and TV or video-game soundtracks. Those forms of music also use symphony orchestras, but those forms of music are created specifically to support the action of the visual story. That music is not made to stand alone, as an individual, engaging work of

art. Some of the best film music, has been arranged into concert suites, collections of movie themes, but that is not at all the same as composing music specifically for concert performances.

As great as our film composers are, very few equal the artistic accomplishments of Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Dvorak. Composers writing specifically for concert performances, *were not* and *are not* distracted by the demands and dramatic intentions of Hollywood. Concert Pieces create their own story-line, often taking us into personal and spiritual places where film music cannot go. Film music cannot go there, because film music is not intended to go there. Film music is like a cruise ship. Everyone on-board knows where the ship is going, and what they are likely to see. Concert music is more like intergalactic travel, going places no one has been to, places no one has seen before the composer launches the starship.

With a little experience in listening to large music, full orchestral music, listeners soon to appreciate the artistic accomplishment of great composers, past and present. Of course, the very best way to enjoy this music is to hear it LIVE, in a concert hall.

But, that is not as easily available to all people as my little internet videos. And truthfully, my internet videos often have more variety than many live concert performances.... plus the added charm of my edits of old Sherlock Holmes movies.... I hope to have you back for more. See you soon!



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Rimsky-Korsakov
SCHEHERAZADE—Symphonic Suite, Op. 35
(1)—1. The Sea and Sinbad's Ship
(2)—2. The Tale of Prince Kalandar
Rafael Druian, violin

ANTAL DORATI
conducting the
MINNEAPOLIS SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

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Episode Two

Gustav Holst

Johannes Brahms

Charles Roland Berry

Jean Sibelius



EPISODE TWO

Host: Larissa Darmstadt

GUSTAV HOLST Gustav Theodore von Holst was born in England in 1874, and lived there all his life, teaching at several schools, including James Allen's Girls School, St. Paul's Girls School, and he was music director at Morley College. His most famous work, *THE PLANETS* was first performed in 1918. Full of drama and mystery, Holst describes each planet with use of a big orchestra, including seven timpani drums, and three percussion players. Planet Neptune includes women's chorus. Holst was very much interested in horoscopes and the cosmic influence of the planets in people's lives. For this reason the music attempts to describe the astrological importance of each planet, Mars, Venus, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Here is *JUPITER, the Bringer of Jollity*, from *THE PLANETS* by Gustav Holst.



BRITISH COMPOSERS SERIES GUSTAV HOLST BY HERBERT LAMBERT, BATH



THE PLANETS

by
GUSTAV HOLST.

MARS, the bringer of war. VENUS, the
bringer of peace. MERCURY, the winged
messenger. JUPITER, the bringer of jollity.
SATURN, the bringer of old age. URANUS,
the magician. NEPTUNE, the mystic.

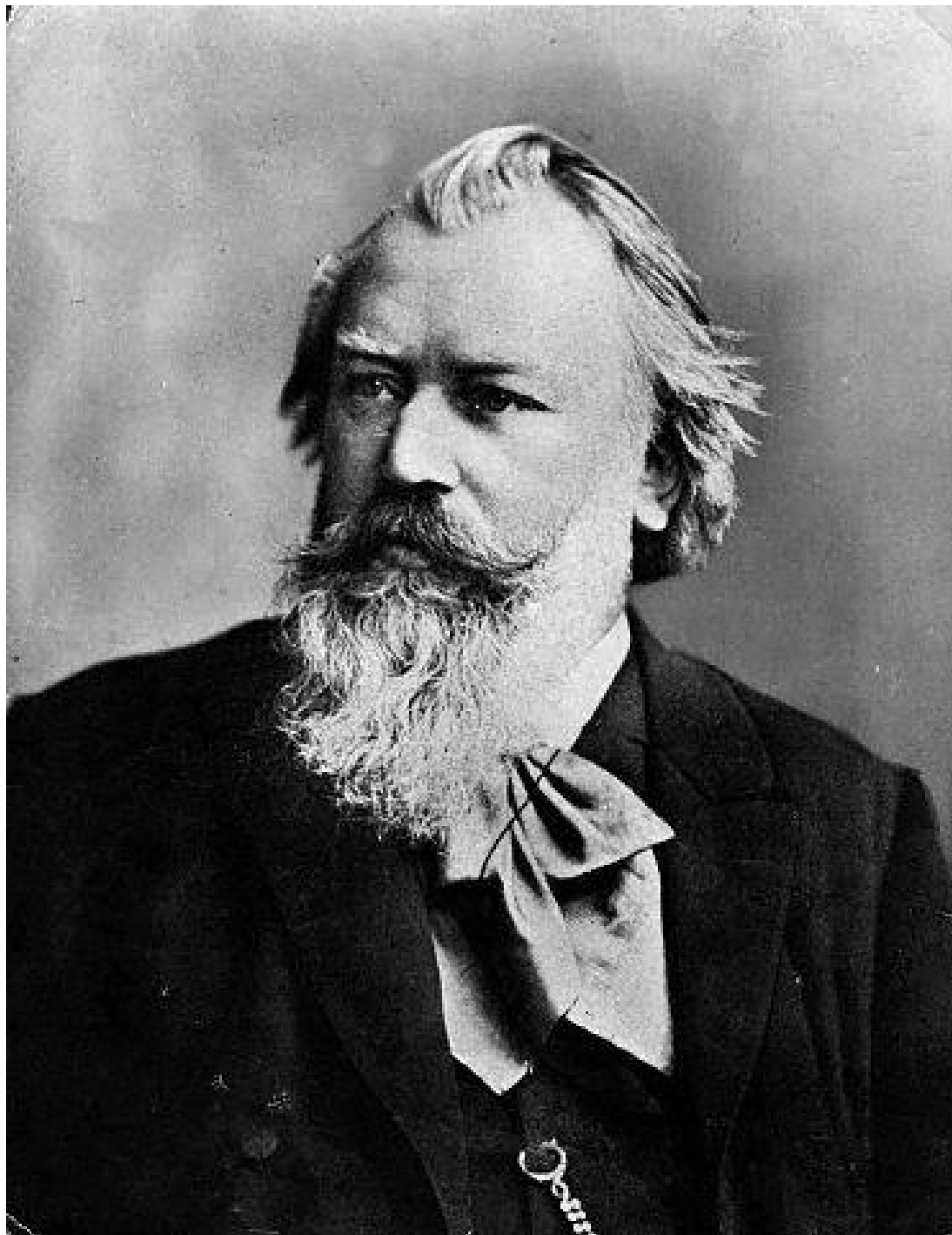
Goodwin & Tabb LTD.

Full Orchestral Score.

JOHANNES BRAHMS was born in Hamburg in 1833, and died in Vienna in 1897.

Johannes Brahms was both a composer and a piano-player. He was the soloist for the first performances of his two Piano Concertos. In 1878, after being clean-shaven most of his life, he decided a long, long bushy beard would be more stylish. One opera singer, who knew Brahms recalled, "once, after a concert, I saw a man unknown to me, rather stout, of middle height, with long hair and a full beard. He spoke to me in a very deep and hoarse voice... Who was this odd fellow!?" It seems, Brahms was a practical joker, and the beard was more to make his friends laugh than for any other purpose. In old photos we see Brahms smoking a cigar, with his full beard and wild hair.

Without question Brahms remains one of the most respected Classical composers. His orchestral works, the Four Symphonies and the Violin Concerto have remained popular. Also, his chamber music, choral music and solo piano pieces show brilliant craftsmanship and lyrical genius. His gift for tender melodies is heard in the 2nd movt. of his VIOLIN CONCERTO....





CHARLES ROLAND BERRY is known for his short pieces in major motion pictures. He is an Armenian composer born in Boston.

Ten years before he began recording in Ukraine, Mr. Berry's Cello Concerto and Symphony no. 3 were recorded in Czech Republic. Right now, I have for you, his OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS OVERTURE which was recorded in Czech Republic with the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, Joel Suben, conducting. This piece is a tribute to the mountains near the composer's home in Washington State. Mr Berry uses much percussion, including a wind machine to represent the drifting winter snow.

for the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine - Lviv

SYMPHONY NO. 5

JEAN SIBELIUS ("shan") is the orchestral genius of Finland. Born in 1865 and died in 1957. His most famous works are his seven Symphonies, his Violin Concerto and Finlandia. Up to 1926, Sibelius produced major works for orchestra. Then he stopped. For the last twenty years of his life he composed very little, though this is when he composed Masonic music, that is, choral and instrumental music for Freemasons. Sibelius was one of the founding members of Suomi Lodge No. 1 in 1922 and later became the Grand Organist of the Grand Lodge of Finland.

Very famous during his lifetime, Sibelius listened carefully to the works of many composers, and watched new trends in 20th Century music develop. But, Sibelius avoided public statements about other composers, Sibelius's secretary documented private conversations in which he admired Richard Strauss, and considered Bela Bartok and Dmitri Shostakovich the most talented composers of the younger generation. In the 1950s he promoted the young Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara.

We will hear the 1st Movt of Sibelius, SYMPHONY NO. 2

SIBELIUS

SYMPHONY NO. 5

IN E-FLAT, OP. 82

SYMPHONY NO. 6

IN D MINOR, OP. 104

STOCKHOLM RADIO SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY


SIXTEN EHRLING



MG-10142

LONG PLAYING
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CLASSICS

Sinfonia V
Jean Sibelius
Op. 82

Tempo molto moderato 

Handwritten musical score for a symphony, featuring staves for various instruments including Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets, Bassoons, Horns, Trumpets, and Timpani. The score includes dynamic markings like 'p' (piano) and 'mp' (mezzo-piano), and tempo markings like 'poco' and 'poco cresc'. The notation is in a major key with a 2/8 time signature.



Sibelius' Cigars





Episode Three

Ludwig von Beethoven

Leos Janacek

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Felix Mendelssohn

Claude Debussy

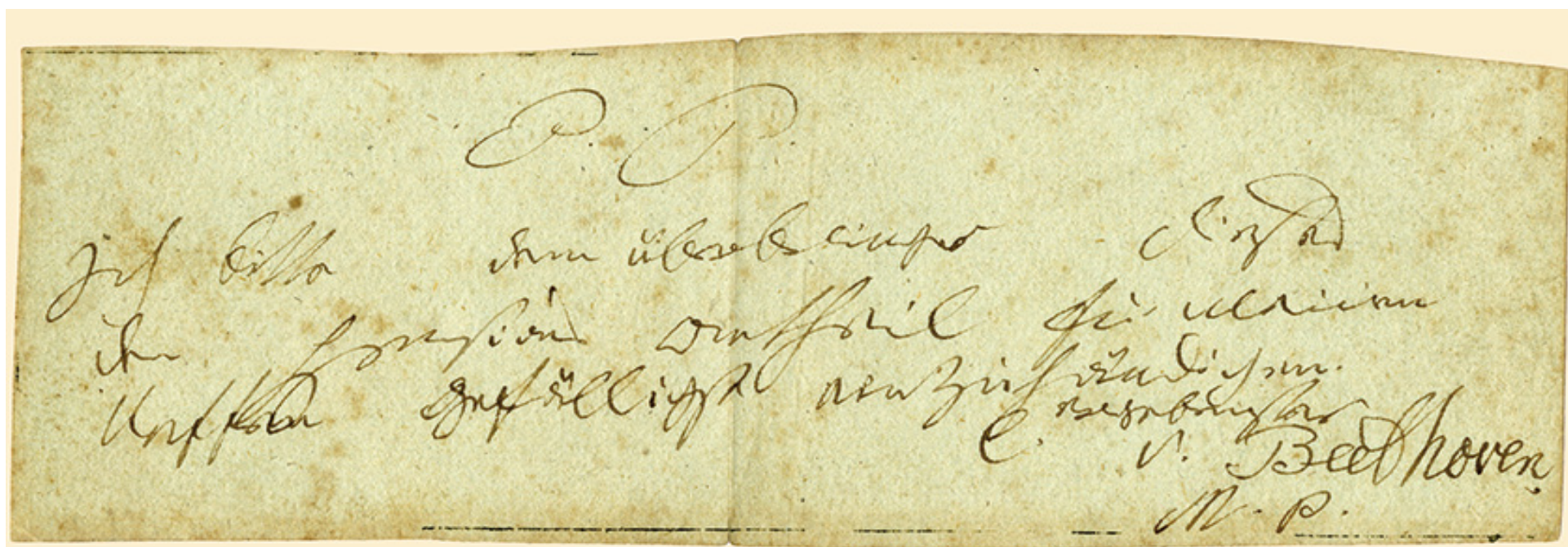


EPISODE THREE

Host: Larissa Darmstadt

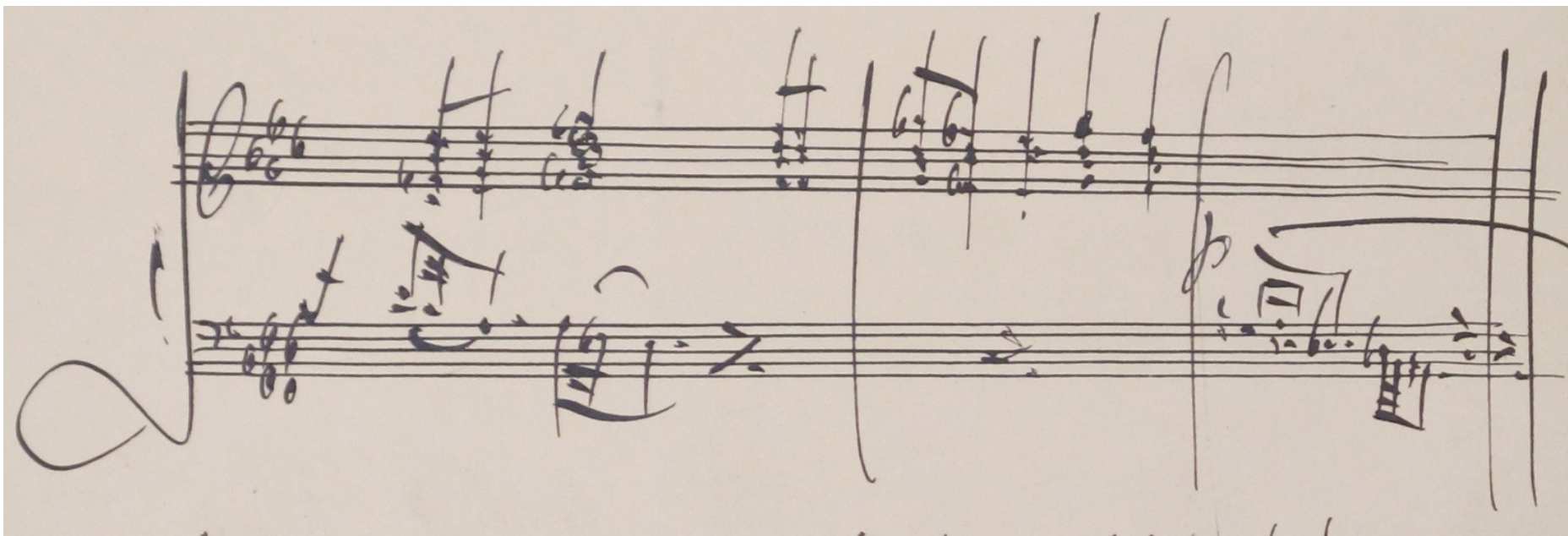
LUDWIG VON BEETHOVEN is perhaps one of the few composers non-music lovers know by name. He was born in 1770 (when Mozart was 14 years old.) Beethoven is historical, like a twelve-foot statue. Larger than life. A hero, struggling against Nature itself. Some of his greatest works were composed toward the end of his life, when he was completely deaf. Beethoven stood between the Classical Period of Haydn and Mozart, and the Romantic composers, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Berlioz. He died in 1827 (when Berlioz was 24 years old, and Mendelssohn was 18 years old.)

His music cannot be easily placed into this or that style, as his moods and techniques varied widely from the piano music, to the string quartets, to the nine symphonies and concertos. Some people have heard the full spectrum of human emotions in Beethoven, from tenderness and playfulness, to outrage and deep despair. He is one of few composers who translated a wide range of emotion into his music. Some composers, lesser composers, often sound like one-trick ponies when placed next to Beethoven. Some composers do a few things well, and nothing more. We will be listening to the opening movement of Beethoven's SYMPHONY NO. 6





LEOS JANACEK was born in 1854 and died in Ostrava, Czech Republic in 1928. After his opera, *Jenufa* was performed in 1916, Janacek found public recognition, and was encouraged to compose four more operas. His most performed instrumental work is the big brass work, *SINFONIETTA* from 1926. This piece shows his brilliance with powerful rhythms, set in contrast to tender melodies, and astonishing use of brass choirs. We will hear two movements from *SINFONIETTA*, by Leos Janacek.





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1. STRANA

Leoš Janáček

SYMFONIETTA

I. Allegretto - II. Andante -
III. Moderato - IV. Allegretto -
V. Andante con moto. Allegretto

Státní filharmonie Brno

řídí F. Jilek





WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART is another composer many people know, some only because of the success of the film, *Amadeus*.

Mozart composed music quickly, not agonizing over this or that little detail, as many composers do. Often his works required little revision, because they were composed with great accuracy. In this way Mozart composed more than 800 works of virtually every genre of his time. Many of these compositions are acknowledged as the very best of their genre, symphonies, sinfonie concertantes, concertos, chamber music, opera and choral works. At one point, Joseph Haydn wrote in his diary: "posterity will not see such a talent again in 100 years" Born in Salzburg, in 1756, Mozart, died in at age 35 in 1791.

Between 1782 and 1783, Mozart became intimately acquainted with the work of Bach and Handel a result of the influence of Gottfried van Swieten, who owned many manuscripts of the Baroque Period masters. Mozart's study of these scores inspired compositions in Baroque style and later influenced his musical language, for example in fugal passages in *The Magic Flute* and the finale of *Symphony no. 41*. Mozart met Joseph Haydn in Vienna around 1784, and the two composers became friends.

When Haydn visited Vienna, they sometimes played violin, viola or cello together in an impromptu string quartet. Mozart's Six String Quartets are dedicated to Haydn.

Mozart's last year was, until his final illness struck, a time of high productivity, and by some accounts, one of personal recovery. He composed some of his most admired works: the opera *The Magic Flute*; his final piano concerto; the Clarinet Concerto; his last series of string quintets; and the unfinished Requiem. Mozart's financial situation, a source of anxiety in 1790, finally began to improve. Although the evidence is inconclusive, it appears that wealthy patrons in Hungary and Amsterdam pledged annuities to Mozart in return for the occasional composition. He is thought to have benefited from the sale of dance music written in his role as Imperial chamber composer.



Chorus

by Mr. Wolfgang Mozart
1765.

prano

Ho

nona

Basso

God is our Refuge our Refuge and Strength a very present help in trouble

God is our Refuge our Refuge and Strength a very present help in trouble

God is our Re = fuge, God is our Refuge and

God is our Refuge and Strength

a very present help in trouble God is = our Refuge and Strength a very

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Strength a present help a very present

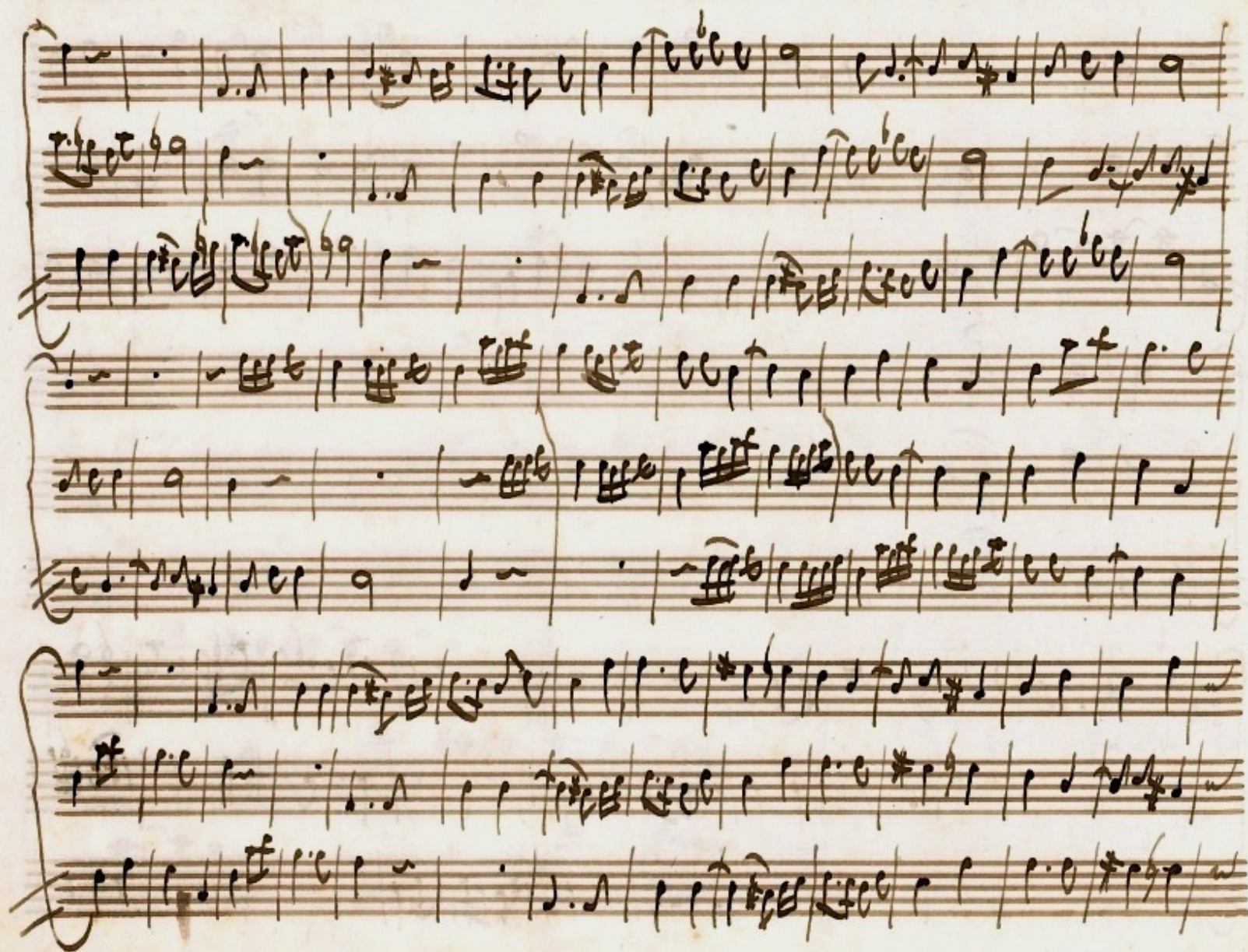
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FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy was born in 1809 and died in 1847. His birth name is a mouthful, so he is known as Felix Mendelssohn. He was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic period. Mendelssohn composed in many genres, including symphonies, concertos, much piano music, organ music, choral and chamber music. His piano pieces, 48 *Songs Without Words* contain many beautiful, lyrical melodies. His most performed works are his Overtures and Incidental music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the Italian Symphony no. 4 and the Scottish Symphony no. 3. Also the Hebrides Overture, the Violin Concerto, and the oratorios, *St. Paul* and *Elijah*, both brilliant choral works with soloists. By far his most well-known piece is the melody for the Christmas carol, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing. To the great pleasure of art dealers, Felix Mendelssohn was also a talented illustrator and painter.





Paintings by Felix Mendelssohn



CLAUDE DEBUSSY

Achille Claude Debussy born 1862 - died 1918. Debussy was a French composer. He is sometimes called the first Impressionist composer, although he vigorously rejected that comparison to Impressionist paintings. He was among the most influential composers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Debussy's orchestral works include *The Afternoon of the Fawn*, (1894), *Nocturnes* (1897–1899) and *Images* (1905–1912). And the wonderful piece, *La Mer*. His String Quartet from 1893 is still very popular with Classical music lovers.

His music was to a considerable extent a reaction against Richard Wagner and the German musical tradition. He regarded the classical symphony as obsolete and sought an alternative in his "symphonic sketches", *La mer* (1903–1905). His piano works include sets of 24 Preludes and 12 Etudes. Throughout his career he wrote *melodies* based on a wide variety of poetry, including his own. In his final years, he focused on chamber music, completing three of six planned sonatas for different combinations of instruments, including his Cello Sonata and Violin Sonata.

With early influences including Russian and Far Eastern music, as with the harmonies of Javanese gamelon music. With these influences, Debussy developed his own style of harmony and orchestral coloring,







Debussy at the piano

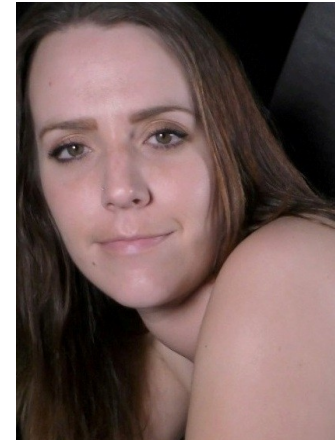
Episode Four

Bela Bartok

Jean Sibelius

Edvard Grieg

Benjamin Lees



EPISODE FOUR

Host: Pilar Geniveve Castillo

Hello. I'm Pilar Geniveve Castillo (Ka- stee-yo) My student, Mistress Larissa has invited me to host this program while she is away, Mistress Larissa has gone trout fishing in the lakes of southern Alberta, Canada.

I have chosen three 20th Century composers, and the romantic Norwegian composer, Edvard Grieg. In these four artists we see vast differences in their use of the symphony orchestra. Taken as a group, we can hear the immense possibilities available to composers who write for full orchestra. Each composer creates a unique musical landscape-- essentially four completely different planets within one star system.

The four personalities created four unique compositional techniques, with four unique results. This is what is possible within the overall genre, we call Classical Music. In this way, Classical music has more variety than all forms of rock, rap, country and blues. Pop music is heard by more people. But Classical music is, by far, the most creative space available to composers.

Béla Viktor János Bartók (25 March 1881 – 26 September 1945) was a Hungarian composer, pianist. He is considered one of the most important composers of the 20th century; he and Franz Liszt are regarded as Hungary's greatest composers. Through his collection and analytical study of folk music, he was one of the founders of ethnomusicology.

After the Nazis came to power in 1933, Bartók refused to give concerts in Germany and broke away from his publisher there. His anti-fascist political views caused him a great deal of trouble with the establishment in Hungary.

Having first sent his manuscripts out of the country, Bartók reluctantly emigrated to the U.S. with his wife, in October 1940.

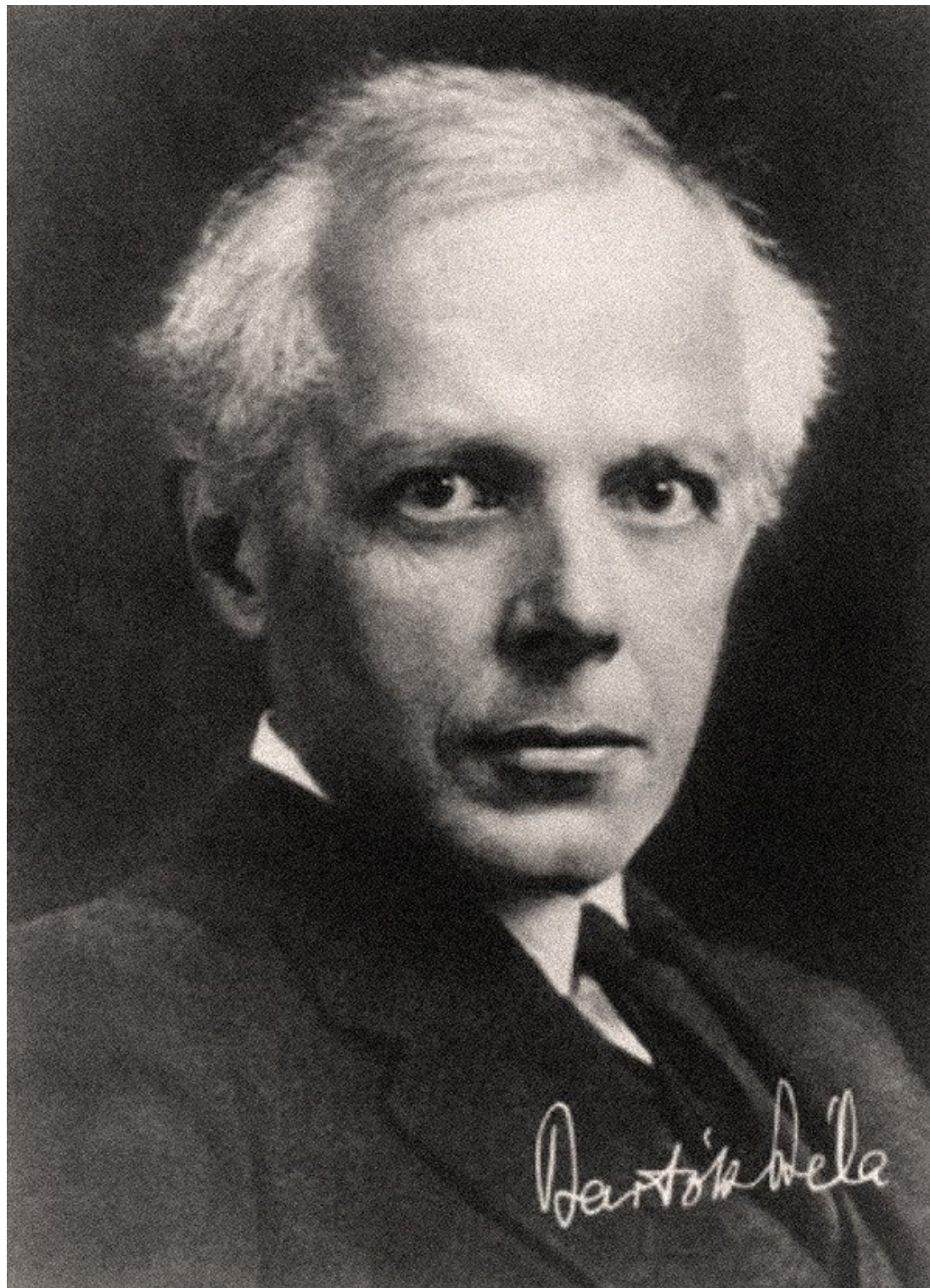
They settled in New York City after arriving on the night of 29–30 October via a steamer from Lisbon. After joining them in 1942, their younger son, Péter Bartók, enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served in the Pacific during the remainder of the war and later settled in Florida where he became a recording and sound engineer. His elder son, by his first marriage, Béla Bartók III, remained in Hungary and later worked as a railroad official until his retirement in the early 1980s.

As a curious fact, Bela Bartok applied for a job at the University of Washington, with the intention to document the music of Pacific Northwest Native American tribes, just as he had documented Hungary folk music. The University of Washington chose not to hire Bartok. The documentation of the music of the Haida people fell to Ida Halpern of Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. Her friends teased her, calling her *Haida Ida*, and she spent 40 years documenting the complex rhythms and harmonies of several Pacific Northwest tribes.

Although he became an American citizen in 1945, shortly before his death, Bartók never felt fully at home in the United States. He initially found it difficult to compose. Although he was well known in America as a pianist, ethnomusicologist and teacher, he was not well known as a composer. There was little American interest in his music during his final years.

His most important compositions include, The Concerto for Orchestra, Piano Concerto No. 3, and his Violin and Viola Concerto. Bartok also composed ground-breaking String Quartets, and much music for solo piano.

Here is the opening movement from the Concerto for Orchestra.





BÉLA BARTÓK

CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA

MUSIC FOR STRINGS,
PERCUSSION & CELESTA

HELSINKI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
SUSANNA MÄLKKI





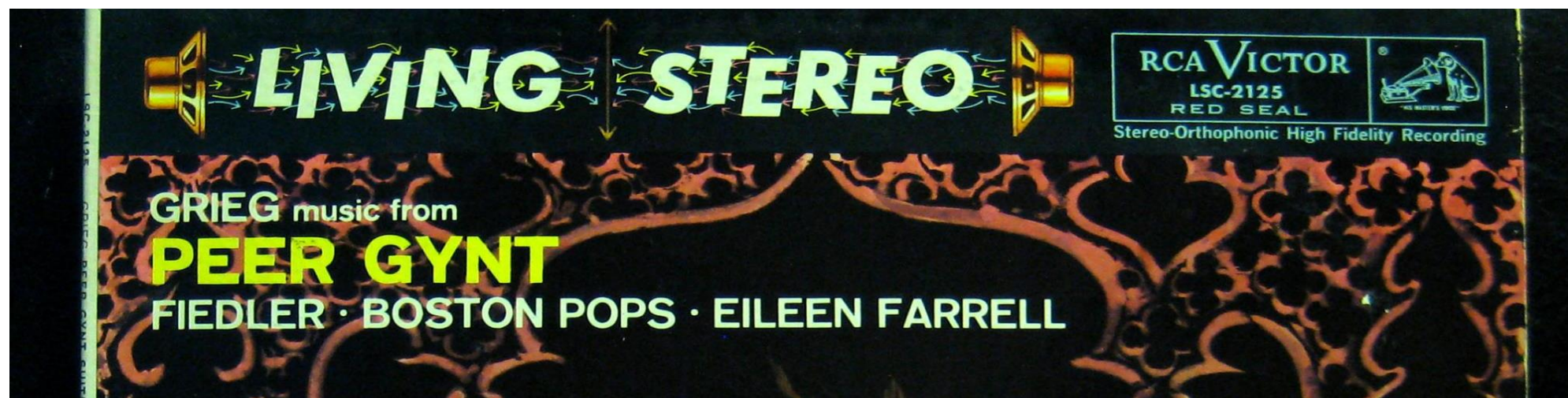


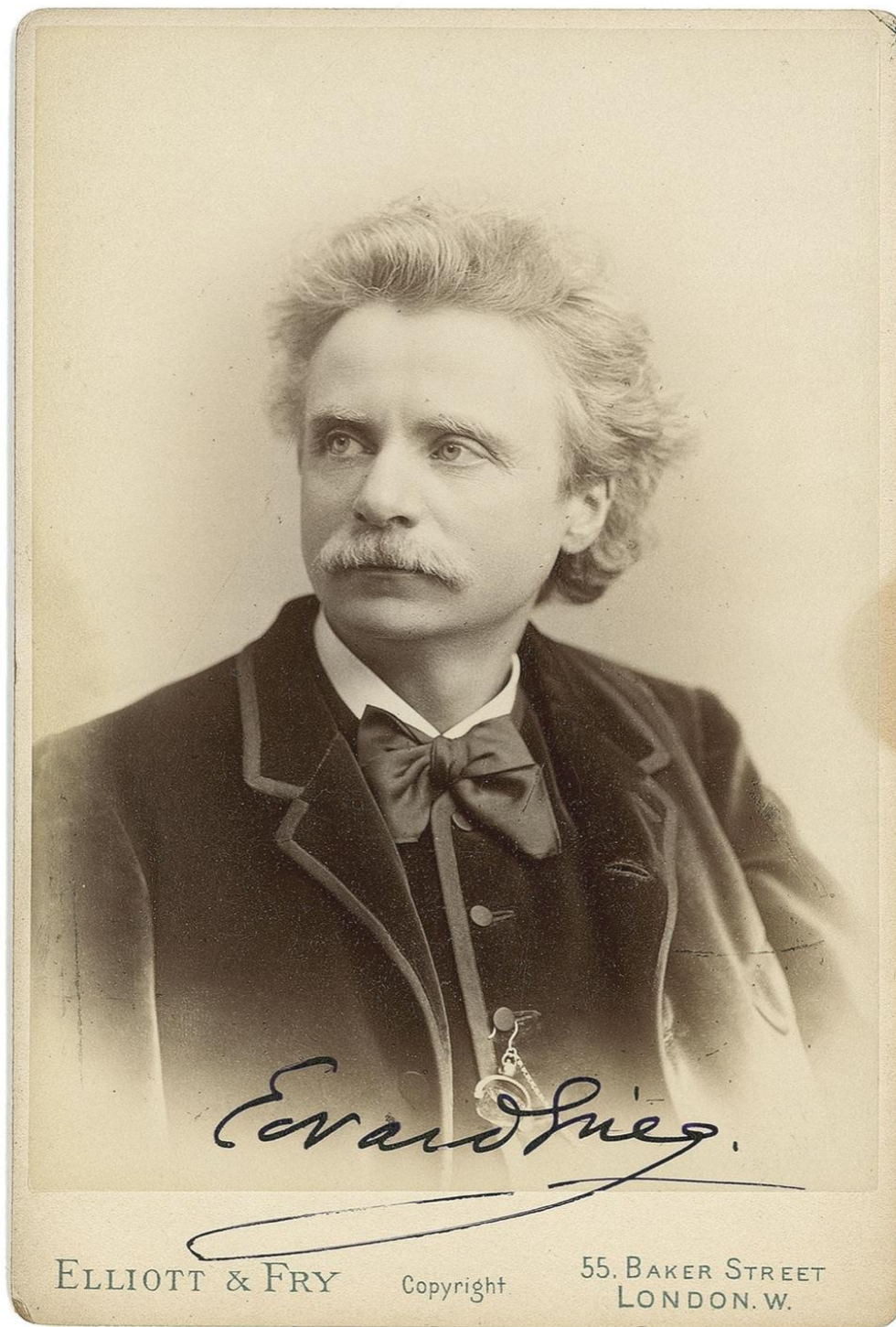
Edvard Hagerup Grieg born in Bergen in 1843, and died in Bergen in 1907. Grieg was a Norwegian composer and pianist. He is considered one of the main Romantic Period composers, and his music is part of the standard classical repertoire worldwide. His use and development of Norwegian folk music in his own compositions brought the music of Norway to international consciousness, as well as helping to develop a national identity, much as Jean Sibelius did in Finland and Bedrich Smetana in Bohemia.

During the summer of 1868, Grieg wrote his Piano Concerto in A minor, while on holiday in Denmark. The concerto had its premiere performance on 3 April 1869 in the Casino Theatre in Copenhagen. During 1868, Franz Liszt, who had not yet met Grieg, wrote a testimonial for him to the Norwegian Ministry of Education, which resulted in Grieg's obtaining a travel grant. The two men met in Rome in 1870. During Grieg's first visit, they examined Grieg's Violin Sonata No. 1, which pleased Liszt greatly.

On his second visit in April, Grieg brought with him the manuscript of his Piano Concerto, which Liszt proceeded to sightread (including the orchestral arrangement). Liszt's rendition greatly impressed his audience, although Grieg said gently to him that he played the first movement too quickly.

In addition to the Piano Concerto, Grieg is known for the Peer Gynt suites, and many solo piano pieces. Here is the opening movement from the Piano Concerto...





ELLIOTT & FRY

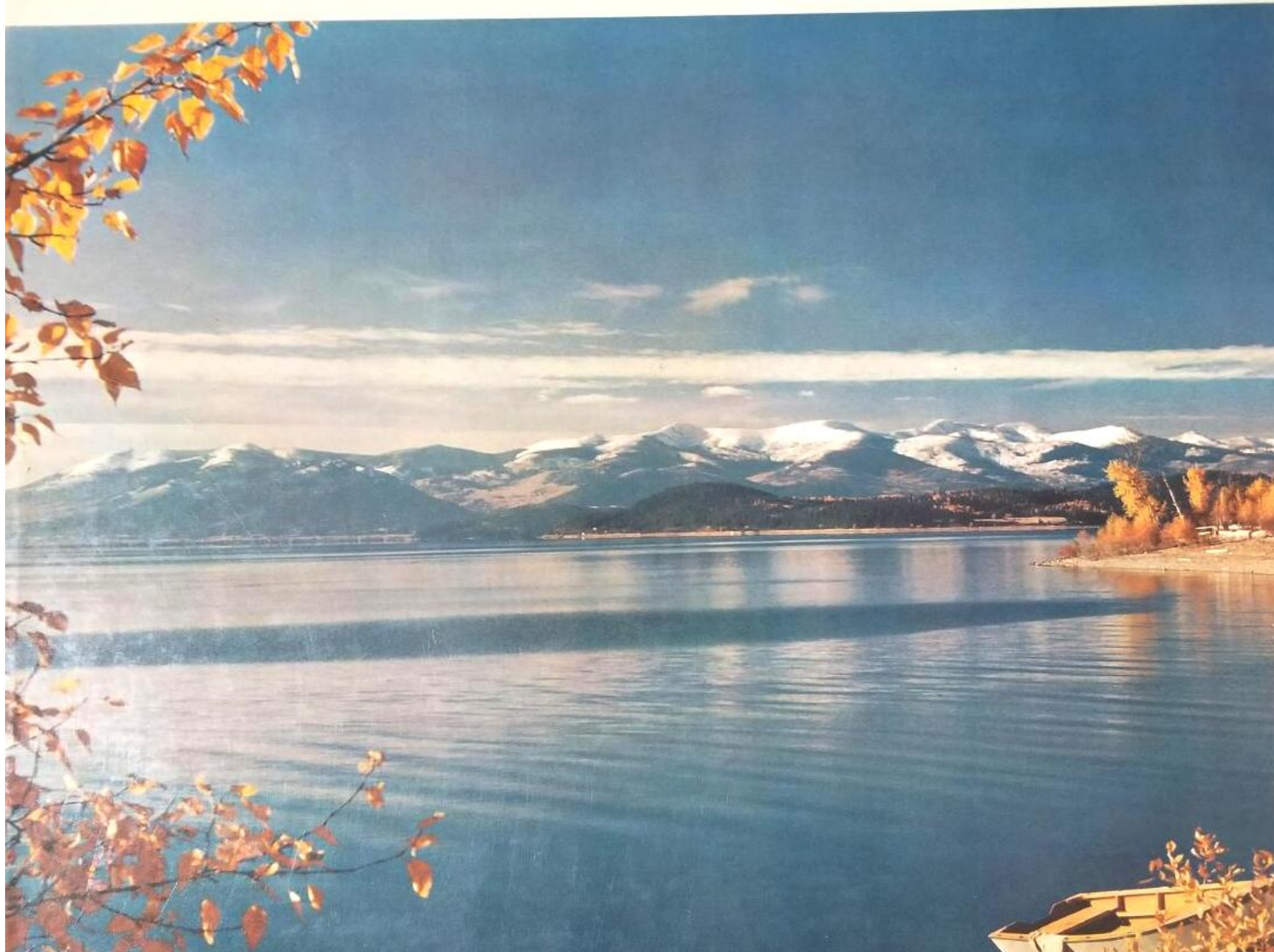
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TCHAIKOVSKY: PIANO CONCERTO NO.1

XWN 18725

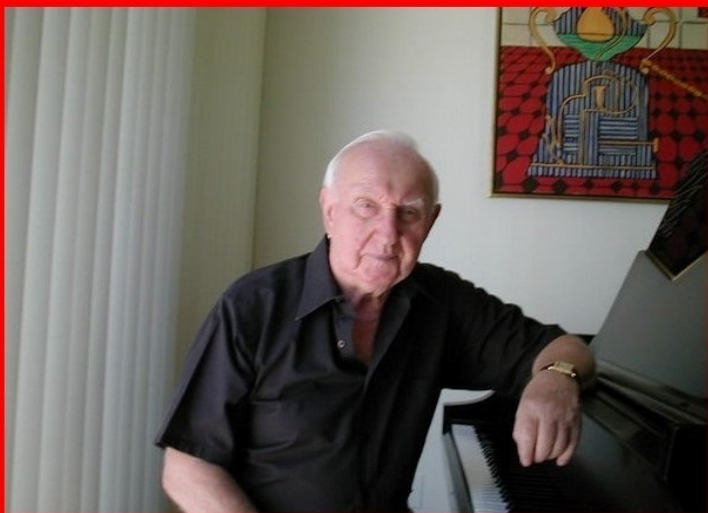
GRIEG: PIANO CONCERTO





BENJAMIN LEES Born in Harbin, China in 1924, to missionary parents of Russia heritage. When he was 18 months old the family settled in San Francisco. At 16 years old his family moved to Los Angeles. During World War II, he was trained in the Signal Core as a radio operator, spending most of that time on Army bases in the swamps of Florida. In 1946 he studied with Halsey Stevens and Ingolf Dahl at the University of Southern California, and moved to New York in 1953. His first major orchestral works were performed in Europe, in Austria, Finland and France. For a year he lived in Italy, lecturing on American music, and became close friends with the artists, Man Ray and Marcel Duchamp. By 1957, he began to be recognized in the U.S., and the Louisville Symphony commissioned his Symphony no. 2. His Violin Concerto premiered in New York in 1958. By 1964 his Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra was premiered in Kansas City, and in 1966, his Piano Concerto No.2 was performed in Boston. In 1967, Benjamin Lees toured the Soviet Union by invitation of the U.S. State Department.

We will hear a much later work, composed on commission from the Dallas Symphony, and premiered in Dallas in 1983. The Concerto for Brass Choir and Orchestra.



with violinist, Henryk Szeryng

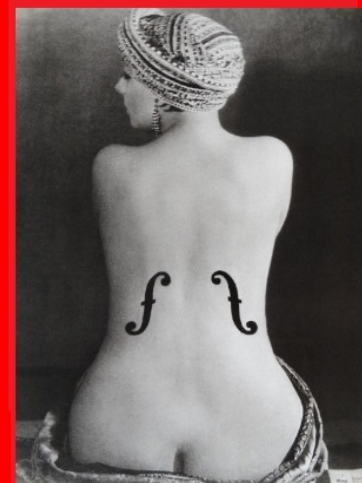
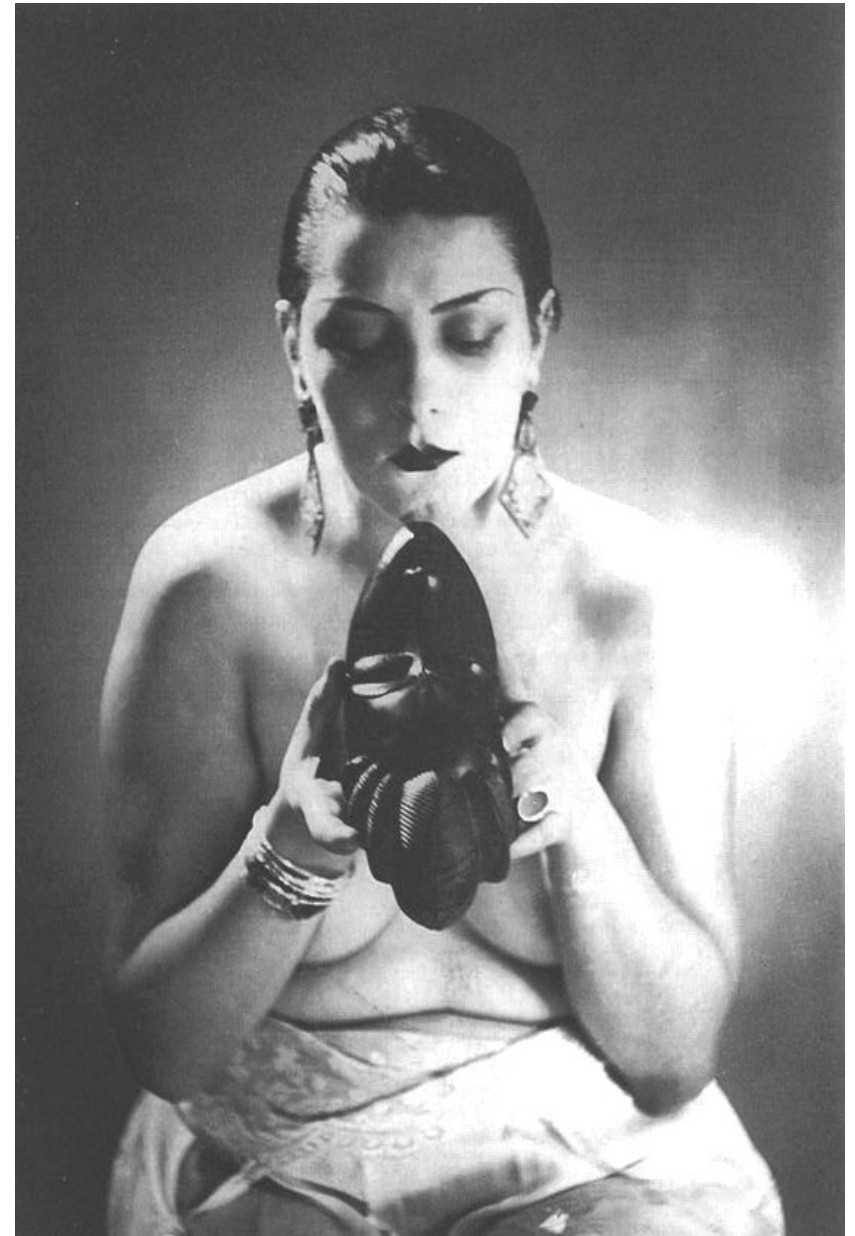
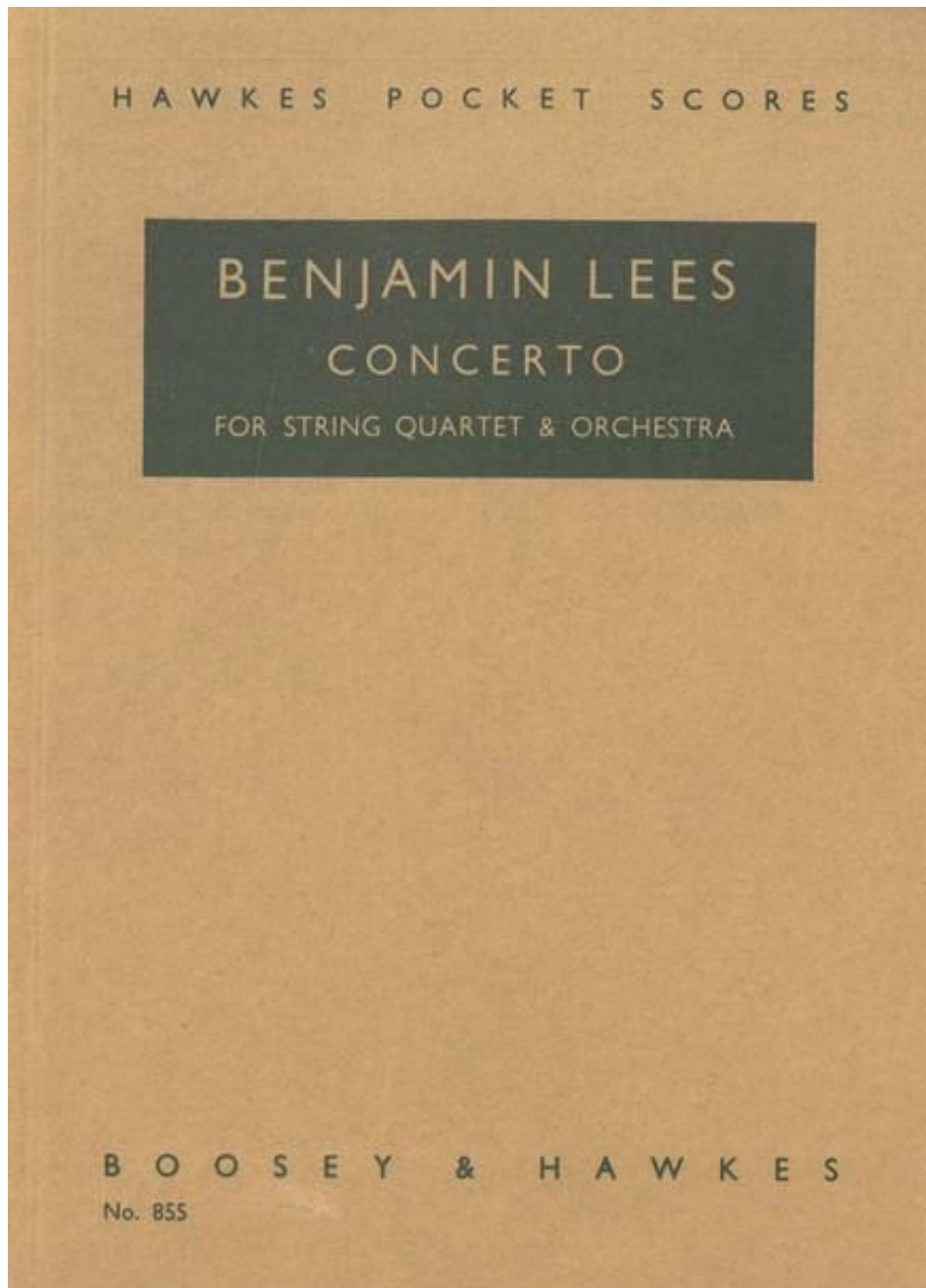


photo by
Man Ray



Benjamin Lees

with artist, Man Ray



Kiki Montparnesse by Man Ray



Jazz. 1919

by Man Ray

Coming Soon...

Episode Five From the Americas

Creston. Symphony no. 2 movt. 2

Hovhaness. God Made Great Whales

Piston. Violin Concerto no. 2 movt. 3

Revueltas. La noche de los Mayas

Moncayo. Huapango

Episode Six The Brits.

Vaughn-Williams. Symphony no. 6 movt.1

Cyril Scott: Early One Morning

Elgar: Enigma Var. "Nimrod" & Cello Concerto.

Walton. Violin Concerto. Movt. 2

Delius: Florida Suite. By the River



Larissa.

The Mistress of Large Music

written, produced and directed by
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